
Report to the General Assembly

Submitted to

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Senate Appropriations Committee on Education

House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Office of State Budget and Management

Fiscal Research Division

More at Four

Pre-Kindergarten Program

Session Law 2010-31 Section 7.5 (c)

Date Due: March 15, 2011

Report #: 55

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2010-11

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WILLIAM C. HARRISON
Chairman

SHIRLEY E. HARRIS
Troy

JOHN A. TATE III
Charlotte

WAYNE MCDEVITT
Vice Chair

MELISSA E. BARTLETT
Roxboro

PATRICIA N. WILLOUGHBY
Raleigh

JEAN W. WOOLARD
Plymouth

ROBERT "TOM" SPEED
Boone

WALTER DALTON
Lieutenant Governor

KEVIN HOWELL
Raleigh

REGINALD KENAN
Warsaw

JANET COWELL
State Treasurer

CHRIS GREENE
High Point

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., State Superintendent

301 N. Wilmington Street :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Visit us on the Web:: www.ncpublicschools.org

A Closely Evaluated Education Initiative

For over ten years, More at Four pre-kindergarten has been evaluated by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which is the only study of More at Four. Learning growth for all students is significant and above expectations for those children starting with the lowest knowledge base.

New evaluation findings indicate that More at Four has beneficial effects on children's language/literacy and math skills at entry into kindergarten. These effects were found across a number of different measures of language, literacy, and math. This study included over 1,000 children and used a rigorous regression discontinuity design. In sum, these results demonstrate that More at Four pre-kindergarten is achieving its primary goal of improving school readiness for at-risk children. (Peisner-Feinberg & Schaff, 2011)

Further, longitudinal evaluation results indicate that More at Four is making a significant academic difference that extends at least through the 3rd grade. Results released in 2010 show that More at Four students who were considered economically disadvantaged in third grade and who attended More at Four achieved statistically significant higher reading and math test scores, on average, than economically-disadvantaged children who did not attend More at Four. In addition, economically-disadvantaged third graders who attended More at Four narrowed the achievement gap with their non-economically-disadvantaged peers by up to 40 percent. (Peisner-Feinberg & Schaaf, 2010)

For more information:
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~mafeval/>

More at Four Pre-Kindergarten

More at Four is North Carolina's state-funded academic pre-kindergarten that is narrowly targeted to the most at-risk four-year-olds.

Number of children funded	30,767 at-risk four-year-olds <i>67% have never been served in an early care/education program</i>
Total number of classrooms	2,254
Public schools	1,218
Child care centers	611
Head Start	425
Budget (2010-2011)	\$160,647,360
Total state expenditures (2009-10)	\$163,451,644
Average operational funds per child	\$5,000 per year
Source of local contributions	Head Start, Title I, Smart Start, IDEA, City/County, Child Care Subsidy, CACFP, Private Provider
Academic standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth – Kindergarten licensed teachers• Use of a curriculum approved by the State Board of Education that supports NC's Early Learning Standards that are aligned with Common Core State Standards
Pre-K integration in the educational continuum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State funding for pre-kindergarten (More at Four) is integrated with federal sources of funding for pre-kindergarten, including Title I Pre-K, Even Start, Head Start and Preschool Exceptional Children, within NCDPI's Office of Early Learning.• NCDPI's focus on Pre-K through Grade 3 alignment of standards, curriculum, instructional practices and assessment maximizes academic gains for children in the early grades, leading to improved high school graduation rates.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction :: Office of Early Learning (Pre-K – Grade 3)